

Message Text

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71

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 AGR-20 CEA-02 CIAE-00 COME-00

DODE-00 EB-11 FRB-02 H-03 INR-10 INT-08 L-03 LAB-06

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 AID-20 CIEP-02 SS-20

STR-08 TAR-02 TRSE-00 USIA-15 PRS-01 SPC-03 OMB-01

NEA-10 DRC-01 /199 W

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R 141815Z DEC 73

FM USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6160

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION OECD PARIS

USINT ALGIERS

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PASS AGRICULTURE

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: ETRD, EEC, SP, IS, TS, MO, AG

SUBJ: EC MEDITERRANEAN POLICY: THE EC

COMMISSION APPROVES PROPOSAL FOR THE

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INTERIM PERIOD BETWEEN JANUARY 1,

1974 AND THE COMPLETION OF NEGOTIATIONS

REF: EC BRUSSELS 7128

1. REFTTEL INDICATED THAT INTERIM TRADE ARRANGEMENTS TO COVER TRADE BETWEEN THE NEW MEMBER STATES AND SEVERAL MEDITERRANEAN COUNTRIES AFTER JANUARY 1 COULD NOT BE COMPLETED BY THAT DATE. COMMISSION PROPOSAL PREPARED THIS WEEK ARE AIMED AT FILLING WHAT OTHERWISE WOULD BE A LEGAL VOID AFTER JANUARY 1.

2. THE COMMISSION PROPOSALS, WHICH WILL BE DISCUSSED BY THE COUNCIL ON DECEMBER 18, CALL FOR THE UK, DENMARK AND IRELAND TO APPLY THE PROVISIONS OF THE EC AGREEMENTS WITH ISREAL, SPAIN, MOROCCO, TUNISIA AND MALTA FROM JANUARY 1. IN ADDITION, AND FOR A SIX-MONTH PERIOD, THE THREE NEW MEMBER STATES WOULD BE ALLOWED TO GRANT ADDITIONAL UNILATERAL CONCESSIONS ON A LIMITED NUMBER OF PRODUCTS NOT COVERED BY THE PRESENT EC AGREEMENTS.

3. ALTHOUGH WE HAVE NOT SEEN A COPY OF THE PROPOSED LIST OF SPECIAL CONCESSIONS OUR SOURCES TELL US THAT IT INCLUDES CONCESSIONS ON FRUIT AND TOMATO JUICES, POTATOES, CANNED TOMATOES, CANNED SARDINES, CUT FLOWER AND PLYWOOD. THESE ADDITIONAL CONCESSIONS -- GRANTED ONLY BY THE NEW MEMBER STATES -- WOULD CORRESPOND TO THE LEVEL OF CONCESSION ON THESE PRODUCTS INCLUDED IN THE PRESENT NEGOTIATING MANDATE WITH THE MEDITERRANEAN COUNTRIES WHICH WAS APPROVED IN JUNE 1973. (EC BRUSSELS A-385 NOTAL CONTAINS A COMPLETE LISTING OF COMMUNITY AGRICULTURAL CONCESSIONS FROM THAT MANDATE.)

4. THE COMMISSION PROPOSALS ARE SILENT ON THE SPECIAL PROBLEM OF ALGERIAN WHOSE SPECIAL TRADING ARRANGEMENTS WITH THE EC ARE NOT GOVERNED BY A SINGLE COMMUNITY-WIDE AGREEMENT. A PERM REP SOURCE HAS INTIMATED THAT THE QUESTION OF EXTENDING UNILATERAL CONCESSIONS TO ALGERIA AS DESCRIBED ABOVE WILL NEVERTHELESS PROBABLY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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BE DISCUSSED DURING THE COUNCIL SESSION ON DECEMBER 18.

5. COMMENT: A DETAILED ASSESSMENT OF THE UNILATERAL CONCESSIONS THE UK, DENMARK AND IRELAND WOULD GRANT TO THE MEDITERRANEAN COUNTRIES FOR A SIX-MONTH PERIOD MUST AWAIT ADDITIONAL INFORMATION. OUR UNDERSTANDING OF THE BASIC APPROACH, HOWEVER, IS AS FOLLOWS. THE PURPOSE OF THE UNILATERAL CONCESSIONS WOULD BE TO ASSURE

THAT, PENDING NEGOTIATIONS OF DEFINITIVE AGREEMENTS, THE PRODUCTS IN QUESTION WOULD CONTINUE TO ENTER THE MARKETS OF THE THREE NEW MEMBER COUNTRIES AT TARIFF RATES AS NEAR POSSIBLE AS THOSE NOW PREVAILING. THUS, AS WE UNDERSTAND IT, THE UK TARIFFS NOW BEING APPLIED TO THE IMPORTS IN QUESTION WOULD NOT BE REDUCED IN ABSOLUTE TERMS. RATHER, THEY WOULD REMAIN WHERE THEY ARE (OR GO UP BY LESS THAN WOULD OTHERWISE BE REQUIRED) AS A RESULT OF BRITAIN'S ALIGNING ITS TARIFFS ON THIRD-COUNTRY IMPORTS TO THE COMMON EXTERNAL TARIFF OF THE COMMUNITY ON JANUARY 1. NATURALLY, THIS APPROACH DEPENDS ON EC COUNCIL AGREEMENT. WHAT-EVER IS DECIDED, THE NINE WILL OBVIOUSLY TREAT THIS MATTER AS SOMETHING OF SPECIAL POLITICAL SENSITIVITY IN LIGHT OF THE MIDDLE EAST SITUATION (SEE REFTEL).GREENWALD

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30 JUN 2005

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